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In the Claims**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

- 1 | 1. (Currently Amended) A variable condition responsive sensor system
2 | comprising a plurality of variable condition sense elements having first and second half
3 | bridges, the first half bridge providing a first output and the second half bridge providing
4 | a second output, and additionally the first half bridge having a first bias node and the
5 | second half bridge having a second bias node, the variable condition being one of
6 | pressure, acceleration, force and torque,
7 | first and second signal conditioning paths
8 | at least one multiplexer with addressable ports connected to both the output
9 | and the bias node of each half bridge of the plurality of sense elements, the at least one
10 | multiplexer having an output port connected to at least one signal conditioning path of
11 | the first and second signal conditioning paths, the first output of the plurality of sense
12 | elements connected through the at least one multiplexer to the first signal conditioning
13 | path and the second output of the plurality of sense elements connected through the at
14 | least one multiplexer to the second conditioning path, the first bias node of the plurality
15 | of sense elements connected through the at least one multiplexer to the first signal
16 | conditioning path and the second bias node of the plurality of the sense elements
17 | connected through the at least one multiplexer to the second signal conditioning path,
18 | memory for storing calibration and characterization data for the plurality of at
19 | least one sense elements and the signal conditioning paths, and
20 | an interface circuit for transmitting data from the memory to the signal
21 | conditioning components for separately conditioning the signals of the plurality of at least
22 | one sense elements and to an external controller to perform mathematical corrections of
23 | the conditioned signals and for comparing the conditioned signals of the plurality of at
24 | least one sense elements.

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COMPLETE LIST OF CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently Amended) A variable condition responsive sensor system
2 comprising a plurality of variable condition sense elements having first and second half
3 bridges, the first half bridge providing a first output and the second half bridge providing
4 a second output, and additionally the first half bridge having a first bias node and the
5 second half bridge having a second bias node, the variable condition being one of
6 pressure, acceleration, force and torque,
7 first and second signal conditioning paths
8 at least one multiplexer with addressable ports connected to both the output
9 and the bias node of each half bridge of the plurality of sense elements, the at least one
10 multiplexer having an output port connected to at least one signal conditioning path of
11 the first and second signal conditioning paths, the first output of the plurality of sense
12 elements connected through the at least one multiplexer to the first signal conditioning
13 path and the second output of the plurality of sense elements connected through the at
14 least one multiplexer to the second conditioning path, the first bias node of the plurality
15 of sense elements connected through the at least one multiplexer to the first signal
16 conditioning path and the second bias node of the plurality of the sense elements
17 connected through the at least one multiplexer to the second signal conditioning path,
18 memory for storing calibration and characterization data for the plurality of at
19 least one sense elements and the signal conditioning paths, and
20 an interface circuit for transmitting data from the memory to the signal
21 conditioning components for separately conditioning the signals of the plurality of at least
22 one sense elements and to an external controller to perform mathematical corrections of
23 the conditioned signals and for comparing the conditioned signals of the plurality of at
24 least one sense elements.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Previously Presented) A variable condition responsive sensor system
2 according to claim 1 in which each half bridge has a bias node and a ground node and

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3 further comprising an independent variable resistor connected in series between a
4 voltage source and an output port of the at least one multiplexer.

1 5. (Previously Presented) A variable condition responsive sensor system
2 according to claim 1 in which the signal conditioning paths and the at least one
3 multiplexer are formed in an ASIC.

1 6. (Original) A variable condition responsive sensor system according to claim 5
2 in which the memory is non-volatile.

1 7. (Original) A variable condition responsive sensor system according to claim 6
2 in which the non-volatile memory is formed in a separate IC.

1 8. (Original) A variable condition responsive sensor system according to claim 1
2 in which the variable condition is pressure.

1 9. (Previously Presented) A variable condition responsive sense element
2 system comprising
3 a plurality of variable condition responsive sense elements providing an
4 output dependent on the variable condition, the variable condition being one of pressure,
5 acceleration, force and torque, the sense elements each having first and second half
6 bridges, each bridge half having a bias node, a ground node and a respective positive
7 and minus output node,
8 a voltage source,
9 an electronic circuit having first, second, third and fourth multiplexers, each
10 having an output and a plurality of address input positions,
11 a respective independent variable resistor connected in series between the
12 voltage source and the output of each of the first and third multiplexers, the bias node of
13 each half bridge of each sense element connected to a respective multiplexer address
14 position of the respective first and third multiplexers,
15 the minus output node of each sense element connected to a respective
16 multiplexer address position of the second multiplexer, the positive node of each sense
17 element connected to a respective multiplexer address position of the fourth multiplexer,

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18 a respective separate signal path connected to the output of each multiplexer,
19 an analog to digital converter having a plurality of inputs and an output, the
20 signal paths being connected to the inputs of the analog to digital converter,
21 a data register having an input and an output, the output of the analog to
22 digital converter connected to the input of the data register,
23 a data transfer circuit connected to the data register and having connections
24 for an external controller, and
25 data transmitted to and received from the external controller through the data
26 transfer circuit, a memory, the memory section being connected to the data transfer
27 circuit, the memory providing analog trim settings for the sense element signal paths,
28 and data for the external controller enabling the external controller to perform
29 mathematical compensation for the variable condition sense element signals.

1 10. (Original) A variable condition responsive sensor system according to claim
2 9 in which the data transfer circuit is a serial peripheral interface bus.

1 11. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting sensor faults in a variable
2 condition responsive sensor system having a plurality of variable condition sense
3 elements, the method of
4 forming each of the sense elements so as to have first and second half
5 bridges, the first half bridge providing a first output and the second half bridge providing
6 a second output,
7 providing at least one multiplexer with addressable ports connected to the
8 outputs of each half bridge of the plurality of sense elements,
9 separately conditioning output signals from each output of a selected sense
10 element, and
11 comparing a linear computation of the separately conditioned signals of the
12 first and second half bridges of the selected sense element with selected tolerance
13 bands.

12. (Canceled)

1 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 in which the step of
2 comparing the separately conditioned signals includes subtracting the conditioned signal
3 of one half bridge from the conditional signal of the other half bridge of a sense element
4 and taking the average of the difference in the two conditioned signals.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising
2 forming an electronic circuit having signal conditioning paths, the paths
3 having signal conditioning components for each half bridge output,
4 obtaining electronic calibration data for each sense element during
5 manufacture of the sensor system and storing that information in memory,
6 connecting the outputs of the bridge halves of a selected sense element to
7 the respective signal conditioning circuit paths using basic calibration data from the
8 memory and separately, partially conditioning the selected output signal, and
9 completing the separate conditioning of the partially conditioned signal by
10 performing mathematical corrections using data transferred from the non-volatile
11 memory to obtain fully conditioned signals before the comparison step of the separately
12 conditioned signals.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising
2 forming an electronic circuit having multiplexers, a signal conditioning path
3 having signal conditioning components for each half bridge output, an analog to digital
4 converter, memory and an interface circuit for transmitting and receiving data,
5 obtaining electronic calibration data for each half bridge sense element
6 during manufacture of the sensor system and storing that information in memory,
7 connecting the electronic circuit to an external controller,
8 transmitting data from memory to enable the external controller to perform
9 mathematical corrections to a conditional digital signal,
10 selecting an address of the multiplexers for connecting the output of a
11 selected half bridge of a selected sense element to the respective signal conditioning
12 circuit path and to transmit basic calibration data to the signal conditioning components
13 in the signal conditioning path,
14 partially conditioning the addressed sense element half bridge using the
15 basic calibration data transmitted from memory to provide a partially conditioned signal,

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16 converting the partially conditioned signal from an analog format to a digital
17 format in the analog to digital converter to provide a digital signal,
18 transmitting the digital signal to the external controller,
19 completing the conditioning of the partially conditioned signal by performing
20 mathematical corrections to the digital signal in the external controller using the data
21 transferred from the memory to obtain fully separately conditioned signals before the
22 comparison step of the separately conditioned signals.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which the interface circuit comprises a
2 serial peripheral interface bus.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which each half bridge has a bias node
2 and further comprising the step of multiplexing the bias node into connection with an
3 independent variable resistor serially connected to a voltage source.